

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

- 1-11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently amended) A method for producing animal feed preparations by comprising combining astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* and customary animal feed components.
13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* are, before ~~the combination~~ combining with animal ~~feedstuffs~~ feed components, processed into a form which makes ~~possible combination~~ the combining with animal ~~feedstuffs~~ feed components possible.
14. (Withdrawn) A method for pigmenting animals or animal products by orally administering astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* to animals.
15. (Withdrawn) A method for producing pigmented animals or animal products by orally administering astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* to animals.
16. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* are admixed to animal feed preparations and the animal feed preparation is orally administered to animals.
17. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 16, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin containing extracts of

astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes*, before admixture to animal feed preparations, are processed into a form which makes possible admixture to animal feed preparations.

18. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* are orally administered directly to animals.

19. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 18, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes*, before administration, are processed into a form which makes possible direct oral administration to animals.

20. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants of the genus *Tagetes* have, by genetic manipulation, been made capable of producing astaxanthin.

21. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the animals are selected from the group consisting of fish, Crustaceae, Galliformes and Anatridae.

22. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 21, wherein the animals are selected from the group consisting of salmonids, shrimps, crabs, chickens, ducks, geese and flamingo.

23. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the animal products are selected from the group consisting of meat, skin, feathers and egg.

24. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 14, wherein the plant parts used are flower heads or petals.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Withdrawn) An animal feed preparation comprising astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes*.
27. (Withdrawn) A pigmenting agent comprising astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or the astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes*.
28. (Withdrawn) The pigmenting agent according to claim 27, consisting of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes* or astaxanthin-containing extracts of astaxanthin-containing plants or parts of plants of the genus *Tagetes*.
29. (Withdrawn) The pigmenting agent according to claim 27, wherein the plant parts used are flower heads or petals.
30. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the astaxanthin-containing plants of the genus *Tagetes* have, by genetic manipulation, been made capable of producing astaxanthin.
31. (New) The method according to claim 12, wherein the plant parts used are flower heads or petals.